number of officers who are posted in Delhi/New Delhi for more than five years is 26.

Duty-free import of Lincomycin Hcl.

3495. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Notification No. 213/88 and 214/88 dated 30th June, 1988, indigenous manufacturers of Lincomycin Injections and Capsules can now import raw material Lincomycin Hcl. duty free;

(b) if so, on what basis the manufacturers of oral powder or liquid formulations have been denied this facility;

(c) whether Government are aware that as a consequence thereof the latter have to pay 115.25 per cent as duty; and

(d) whether Government proposed to allow them to import this material duty free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) Notifications No. 213/88-Customs and No. 214/88-Customs, both dated the 30th June, 1988 exempt basic and auxiliary duty of customs on Lincomycin Hydrochloride imported for manufacture of Lincomycin Hydrochloride capsules and injection. These notifications sought to restore the concession admissible to this product upto the 29th February, 1988. However, no such concession was available to this bulk drug when imported for manufacture of oral powder and formulations. The total import duty leviable on this bulk drug is 115.25 per cent.

Certain representations have been received seeking reduction of customs duty on this bulk drug. These representations are being examined.

Closure of Textile Mills

3496. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of textile mills which have been closed down due to sickness or due to other reasons in India;

(b) how many of these mills in private sector in Maharashtra State have been closed down; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to make these mills viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) As on 31st May, 1988, there were a total of 133 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills lying closed in the country due to various reasons.

(b) Of these, nine were lying closed in the private sector in Maharashtra.

(c) The cases of sick textile mills are considered by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction. Government have also constituted a Nodal Agency to ascertain the viability of sick textile mills. Of the closed mills in Maharashtra, the Nodal Agency had examined seven, all of which were found to be non-viable. As laid down in the 1985 Textile Policy, non-viable mills may have to close down permanently.

Joint Industrial Ventures with South Korea

3497. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South Korea has evinced keen interest in promoting joint industrial ventures with Indian firms;

(b) if so, the details of the South Korean firms which have shown their interest for joint ventures; and

(c) what is Government's reaction on such joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) During the recent visit of the Buying Mission led by Dr. Chul-Su-Kim, Assistant Minister for Trade and Industry, Republic of Korea and in the 9th Joint Meeting of the India-Korea Joint Business Council, the Korean expressed their interests in establishing joint ventures in India. Members of the Buying Mission held talks with Indian firms for setting up joint ventures in India for items such as manufacture of light bulks.

(c) Government would welcome the setting of such joint ventures, especially export oriented joint ventures.

Joint Ventures with Japanese Companies

3498. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Japanese firms have shown their keen interest in entering into joint ventures and production cooperation with the Indian companies;

(b) if so, the details of the Japanese firms keen in joint ventures; and

(c) whether Government have since approved the joint venture proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DASS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) No such proposals from the Indian parties for entering into joint ventures and production cooperation with Japanese firms in Japan have been received in this Ministry.

Pension to I.N.A. Personnel

3499. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA:
SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have maintained any record of Indian National Army personnel;

(b) what is the number of INA personnel who had applied for pension and how many of them have been sanctioned pension;

(c) what is the number of pension cases pertaining to INA personnel which are pending disposal along with the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when all the I.N.A. personnel who have applied for pension are likely to get pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 34,665 Ex-INA Personnel applied for Freedom Fighters Pension out of which 19,041 cases have been sanctioned as on 30.6-88.

(c) and (d) In July-August, 1988 a special drive was launched and all the cases were disposed off. However a Committee of eminent Ex-INA personnel has been constituted to re-consider some of the cases.

Rent paid by the Allahabad Bank for Scindia House premises

3500. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite guidelines issued by the Reserve